

# FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Press Release

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Released by: Farmington Board of Education/Kathleen C. Greider, Supt.  
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Superintendent of Schools

### **Dr. William Silva, Principal, Farmington High School, Announces His Retirement**

### **Mr. Curt Pandiscio, Assistant Principal, Farmington High School Announces His Retirement**



**Dr. William Silva**, Principal of Farmington High School (FHS), announced his decision to retire at the conclusion of the current school year. Dr. Silva has served the Farmington High School community with great distinction and care for 6 years. He is an extraordinary leader who has collaborated with faculty, staff, students and families to implement purpose-driven, self-directed, and mastery-based learning across all subject areas and for all students. Dr. Silva's collaborative approach has resulted in impressive student outcomes and a deeply caring school environment. This is exemplified in his strong relationships with all constituencies, his visibility in classrooms and at school and community events and his deep commitment to the success of every student.

Dr. Silva's dynamic and forward thinking leadership, along with his collaboration with his students, faculty, and parents helped to transform teaching, learning and assessment at Farmington High School over the past 6 years. He has elevated the entire faculty's understanding of a growth mindset as well as student-centered curriculum, instruction and assessment best practices. In collaboration with his students, faculty and school community, Dr.

Silva has led improvement efforts that have had a direct and dramatic impact on student achievement by elevating the role of students as leaders of their own learning within a strong and supportive school culture.

Farmington Superintendent Kathleen C. Greider states, “Dr. Silva has been a true partner during his time as Farmington High School’s Principal. In all aspects of his collaborative work with students, colleagues, parents and community leaders, Dr. Silva prioritized relationships and care for others. His visibility and connections with students and faculty alike, created an environment of innovation and visionary practices to ensure all students graduate FHS with the knowledge and transferable thinking and learning skills outlined in Farmington’s Vision of the Graduate. Dr. Silva also brought an element of joy as the Principal of Farmington High School. I, along with the entire Farmington school district community, will miss Dr. Silva’s energy, kindness, and expertise. We wish him health, happiness and many outstanding adventures in the future.”

Board Chair Christopher Fagan states, “On behalf of the Board of Education, we extend our unwavering gratitude to Dr. Silva for his commitment to all members of the Farmington school district community. He is an inspirational educator who has provided exemplary leadership to the students, parents, faculty and staff of the Farmington Public Schools. He will be deeply missed. The Board of Education extends congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Silva as he embarks on a new chapter in his life.”

Dr. Silva states, “It has been the greatest privilege and honor of my career as an educator to serve as Principal of Farmington High School. I am extraordinarily grateful for the rewarding experiences I have had here and the special relationships I have been so fortunate to establish with students, faculty, staff, parents, and members of the community. I am also extremely proud of the accomplishments that collectively we have achieved as one of the best high schools in Connecticut and in the nation. I will dearly miss Farmington High School--my students, my colleagues, and the many Farmington families whose children I have had the great pleasure of working with during the past six years.”

### **Background:**

Dr. Silva has been the Principal of FHS since 2013. Prior to 2013, he served as the Assistant Principal of Lewis S. Mills High School in the Region 10 school district. Dr. Silva also served as a long-time Social Studies teacher, department chair and instructional resource and support teacher in Berlin, Connecticut. He was Berlin’s Teacher of the Year in 1996 and received the prestigious Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award in 1997.

Dr. Silva earned his Ph.D. and Master’s Degree in Philosophy from Yale University and his Bachelor’s Degree in American Studies from Amherst College. In addition, he earned his sixth year diploma in Educational Leadership from the University of Hartford.



**Mr. Curt Pandiscio**, Assistant Principal of FHS, will be retiring at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. Assistant Principal Curt Pandiscio has served the Farmington Public Schools with dedication and excellence for 25 years. During his time in Farmington, he also served as Interim Principal of FHS. Mr. Pandiscio has been instrumental in the development of visionary programming, practices and professional learning opportunities for faculty and staff. His innovative and collaborative approach supported improvement efforts that have led to state, national and international acclaim for FHS.

Under Mr. Pandiscio's leadership, Farmington students join teachers and administrators on instructional rounds and make recommendations for the school's next level of improvement work. As a result of elevating student voice at FHS, Farmington students have presented at international conferences on the power of student voice and leadership. Schools across the nation are now including students on instructional rounds as a result of Farmington's dedication to student voice and leadership.

Mr. Pandiscio is a strategic and gifted instructional leader. He has embraced innovation in the areas of instruction, programming and operations. Teacher teaming, rigorous AP offerings and strong resource management are a few examples of his many and varied contributions to the Farmington Public Schools. Over the past 10 years, the FHS Design Team recommendations and Vision of the Graduate provided opportunities to make significant shifts in curriculum, assessment and programming to better prepare students for the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Mr. Pandiscio's leadership was critical in achieving these important shifts. In addition, Mr. Pandiscio has supervised several different departments in his time as Assistant Principal at FHS. He is a strong supporter of the Fine and Applied Arts and has contributed to a future-oriented vision of learning environments in our facilities while maintaining a safe, secure and welcoming school for all high school students.

Superintendent Greider states, "We deeply appreciate Mr. Pandiscio's dedication and commitment to the Farmington Public Schools over the past 25 years. His expertise in both instruction and operations has led to innovative practices and programs that have benefited FHS students. Mr. Pandiscio has provided exemplary leadership at the district-level as a leader on the District Leadership Council. Mr. Pandiscio's vision for a forward-thinking and innovative high school is a legacy that will endure for many years to come. We deeply thank Curt Pandiscio for his service to the Farmington community and we wish him the very best in his retirement, especially as he embraces his entrepreneurial spirit and love of traveling. "

Board Chair Chris Fagan states, "On behalf of the Board of Education, we extend our appreciation and congratulations to Mr. Curt Pandiscio. He has served the Farmington community with humility and a strong commitment to excellence. Under Mr. Pandiscio's

leadership, student voice has been elevated at FHS, resulting in innovative practices and opportunities for our students. Although this is just one example of the many contributions he has made during his outstanding 25 year career in Farmington, it represents a significant and important shift as we continue to prepare our students for the challenges and opportunities of our ever-changing world community.”

Mr. Pandiscio states, “I feel especially fortunate to have spent the past 25 years as part of the Farmington Public Schools. Having the opportunity to work alongside the most talented and passionate educators, serving the remarkable students and families of this community has been a joy. The way that Farmington educators respect all students and their unique circumstances, and the efforts they make to provide every student with the supports and opportunities needed to be successful is what sets Farmington apart. To have been part of this for most of my career is immensely rewarding and also, quite humbling. Every day has been a good day and I leave with memories and friendships that make me feel good about my time here.”

**Background:**

Mr. Pandiscio has served as FHS Assistant Principal for 25 years beginning his career here on January 1, 1994. Previously, he served as a High School Social Studies Teacher in Simsbury, CT for over 5 years. Mr. Pandiscio earned a Sixth Year Degree in Administration from University of Connecticut, a Masters of Arts in Economics from Wesleyan University and a Bachelor of Arts in History from University of Hartford.

*A search for a new Principal and Assistant Principal of Farmington High School will begin immediately with an anticipated start date of July 1, 2019.*